



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

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JAN 22 2015

Ref: 8EP-N

Ms. Janell Barrilleaux
Environmental Program Manager
Federal Aviation Administration Airports Division
Northwest Mountain Region
1601 Lind Avenue SW
Renton, WA 98057

Re: Cal Black Memorial Airport Draft
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement,
CEQ#20140355

Dear Ms. Barrilleaux:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 has reviewed the Cal Black Memorial Airport Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) and evaluation of Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, recodified at (49 U.S.C. § 303(c)), prepared by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Our comments are provided for your consideration pursuant to our responsibilities and authorities under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 4332(2)(C), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 7609.

The DSEIS is not for a new development or project at the airport but is being prepared to address a decision issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. In 1990, the FAA issued a Draft and a Final EIS for the development of a replacement airport for the Halls Crossing Airport, located within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA). The FAA determined that no significant impacts would result from the new airport to the recreational experience of visitors to the GCNRA. The Cal Black Memorial Airport was constructed and opened in 1992. In 1993, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit remanded the EIS decision back to the FAA for further environmental analysis of aircraft noise impacts to the recreational use of public lands. The scope of the DSEIS and Section 4(f) evaluation is (1) the measurement of actual aircraft noise levels in GCNRA and visitor surveys, (2) an updated evaluation of existing and future aircraft noise levels, (3) a Section 4(f) evaluation using the updated noise analysis, and (4) an analysis of potential cumulative effects.

The EPA provided scoping comments in a letter dated November 7, 2010. We are pleased that the FAA DSEIS includes a noise analysis of existing conditions, future conditions, and cumulative impacts from enroute noise and that this analysis includes a revisited prediction of air traffic based on actual levels of air traffic.

Based on our review, the EPA is rating the Draft SEIS action as "Lack of Objections" (LO). The "LO" rating means that the EPA's review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring

substantive changes to the action alternatives. A description of EPA's rating system can be found at:
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/comments/ratings.html>.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Cal Black Memorial Airport Draft SEIS. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments, please feel free to contact either me at 303-312-6704 or Dr. Angelique Diaz of my staff at 303-312-6344 or by email at diaz.angelique@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Philip S. Strobel
Acting Director, NEPA Compliance and Review Program
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation

